



Joint Public Notice

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Norfolk District
Virginia Department of Environmental Quality

March 3, 2006

Stream Assessment Methodologies Update

The Corps and DEQ have reached the following agreement regarding how and when the DEQ's Stream Impact Compensation Assessment Methodology (SICAM) and the Corps' Stream Attribute Assessment Methodology (SAAM) are to be used, during the remainder of the six month testing period announced in December 2005, to end in June 2006.

During this interim period, the following procedure will be followed:

1. For State Program General Permit (SPGP) development projects in Category A and B, which covers stream impacts less than 300 linear feet, use of either form is not required; if required, stream mitigation will be implemented on a case by case basis.
2. For SPGP development projects in Category C, DEQ general permits and any individual permits, both the DEQ SICAM and the Corps SAAM will be used by the applicant and the results provided to both agencies. Each agency will make an independent decision on the required mitigation (on-site, off-site, use of a mitigation bank or contribution to the Virginia Aquatic Resources Trust Fund) using their respective methodologies. The public will be required to abide by the conditions of the most restrictive permit.
3. For projects that qualify for a Corps Nationwide Permit and propose stream impacts requiring submission of a pre-construction notification, the stream impacts will be assessed using the SAAM and submitted to the Corps.

During the testing period, DEQ and the Corps have agreed to collect and share data generated by use of the two methodologies. DEQ and the Corps are planning a joint agency meeting in June 2006 to review the data and work toward developing a stream methodology both agencies can support. During the same timeframe, the public will be invited to participate in a follow-up stream forum workgroup designed to reach consensus on a stream methodology for Virginia.

Catherine M. Harold, PWS
Manager, Office of Wetlands
and Water Protection
Virginia Department of Environmental Quality

J. Robert Hume, III
Chief, Regulatory Branch
Norfolk District, Corps of Engineers